



National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center

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NASA, USDA Will Bring Space Technology Down To Earth

A new partnership between NASA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) could result in updated maps of Yellowstone National Park, a better understanding of wildfires and improved management of California vineyards.

Under the partnership, NASA has selected 13 research proposals that will apply remote-sensing data — images of the Earth taken by satellites — to issues on the ground: forest mapping, soil studies, wildfires, range management, flood-plain drainage and crop monitoring.

“This new partnership between NASA and USDA demonstrates the diverse and wide-ranging applications of NASA’s Earth Science research and its relevance to the American people,” said Dr. Ghassem Asrar, Associate Administrator of Earth Sciences, NASA Headquarters. “The Office of Earth Sciences is eager to form new partnerships with other government agencies, industry and public groups to expand America’s use of our Earth Science research.”

“We in the Department of Agriculture, especially the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service are very excited about partnering with NASA on these research projects,” said I. Miley Gonzalez, Under Secretary for Research, Economics and Education. “We recognized that there were areas of research where images from space combined with ground surveys can greatly benefit our mapping efforts. We are looking forward to these pilot projects and hope they may lead to future partnerships between our organizations to explore land management and precision agriculture topics.”

The award value for the 13 projects, which involve 11 universities, 11 private companies, 17 federal agency facilities and four state and local governments, is \$7 million over three years. NASA selected the 13 projects from 180 proposals.

Researchers will use a variety of public and private spaceborne and aircraft-mounted Earth-observing instruments along with ground observations in their studies.

For forestry studies, NASA, the U.S. Forest Service and universities will use the recently launched Landsat 7 and other satellites to create valuable new maps of Yellowstone and other public lands.

Satellite imagery also can provide researchers at the Forest Service and universities with maps of vegetation in areas prone to wildfires — firefighters can determine which types of plants are more likely to fuel wildfires and better predict what paths such fires may take.

Using airplanes and spacecraft that observe characteristics

of grape vines invisible to the naked eye, researchers can “see” when vines are ill, allowing vintners to act before many vines are lost to disease. This research will allow America’s billion-dollar wine industry to manage its vineyards more cost-effectively.

Additional information on the research projects, including the names of the universities, companies and federal facilities involved, can be found on the Internet at: <http://earth.nasa.gov/nra/archive/nra98oes09/winners.html>

McNally Named Deputy Director

Alison McNally has been appointed Deputy Director of the Management Operations Directorate (Code 200).

McNally will use her considerable management and organizational experience in the oversight of the institutional infrastructure and business management services necessary for the successful accomplishments of Goddard’s scientific and technical missions.

Wallops Shorts.....

Sounding Rocket Launch

A Terrier-Black Brant sounding rocket was successfully launched on May 7 from the White Sands Missile Range, N.M. The experiment was to obtain high spatial resolution ultraviolet observations of the Sun that will be used to augment the scientific return of the SOHO and TRACE satellite programs. Data will be used to develop the next generation of space instrumentation. Dr. Clarence Korendyke of the Naval Research Laboratory was the Principal Investigator. Jan Neville, Carrier Systems Branch, was the payload manager. The payload was recovered.

Balloon Launch

A NASA scientific balloon was successfully launched from Ft. Sumner, N.M. on May 7. The 29.47 million cubic foot balloon carried a high-energy astrophysics gamma-ray imaging telescope experiment. The principal investigator was Elena Aprile, Columbia University.

Ice Mapping Mission

Observational Science Branch personnel departed Wallops May 6 for Greenland on the NASA P-3 aircraft. Using an airborne laser altimeter to measure the thickness of the ice sheet in Northern Greenland researchers will resurvey flight lines that were flown in 1994. The mission is expected to last approximately one month.

Test Director Named

Effective April 25, Jay F. Brown, Range and Mission Management Office was appointed Test Director for the Suborbital Projects and Operations Directorate.

NASA Helping Improve Crime-Scene Technologies

NASA scientists are working to develop new software technologies and instruments to help law enforcement agencies catch criminals by improving the analysis of crime-scene evidence.

NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center has demonstrated software that improves dark, blurry videotape. NASA Goddard Space Flight Center personnel are also working with the National Institute of Justice to develop remote crime-scene analysis.

Goddard and the National Institute of Justice will study how remote-sensing technology might allow investigators in a central location to study a distant crime scene.



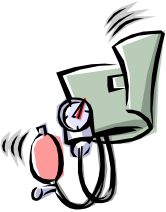
May is Blood Pressure Awareness Month

by Betty Jackson, R. N.

Another name for high blood pressure is hypertension. High blood pressure means the pressure in your arteries is consistently above your “normal” range.

Blood pressure is the force of blood pushing against blood vessel walls. It is written as two numbers, such as 122/78 mmHg. The top, systolic number is the pressure when the heart beats. The bottom, diastolic number is the pressure when the heart is at rest. High blood pressure is a consistently elevated pressure of 140 systolic or higher and/or 90 diastolic or higher.

It is not known exactly what causes most cases of high blood pressure. It usually can’t be cured, but it can be controlled.



A large number of Americans have it and many don’t know it. Not treating high blood pressure is very dangerous. You can live a healthier life if you get treatment to control high blood pressure.

Who is at a higher risk for high blood pressure?

- People with close blood relatives who have it
- African-Americans
- People over 35
- Overweight people
- People who use too much salt
- People who use too much alcohol
- Women who take birth control pills
- People who aren’t active
- Pregnant women.

How can I tell I have it?

- You usually can’t tell. Many people have it and don’t know it.
- The only way to know is to get your blood pressure checked regularly.

What can untreated high blood pressure lead to?

- Stroke
- Heart attack
- Heart failure
- Kidney failure

What can I do about it?

- Lose weight if you’re overweight.
- Eat foods that are low in salt and fat.
- Limit alcohol to no more than two drinks a day.
- Be more active
- Take medicine the way your doctor tells you.
- Know what your blood pressure should be and work to keep it at that level.

How can medicine help?

- Some medicines help relax and open up your blood vessels so blood can flow through better.
- A diuretic can help keep your body from retaining too much water and salt.

For an appointment to have your blood pressure checked, call the Health Unit, x1266.

40th Anniversary History Book Available

Goddard’s 40th Anniversary history book, “*Dreams, Hopes and Realities: NASA Goddard’s First Forty Years*” is still available. Goddard civil service employees should have received a copy in the guard mail. Employees who did not should contact their directorate secretary.



Anyone wishing to order additional copies of the book should contact the Superintendent of Documents at the Government Printing Office by telephone (202) 512-1800 or fax (202) 512-2250. The book may also be ordered on the Internet at: www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs

The price for the book is \$33.00 soft cover, \$41.00 hard cover.

**Thrift Savings Plan
Open Season
May 15 - July 31, 1999**



**Tailgate Sale
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
May 19
Flag Court Parking Lot**

*Sincere sympathy is extended to the family and friends of
Riley S. Bull
who died May 7 in
Peninsula Regional
Medical Center.
Bull retired as an
electronics technician in
January 1998.*

Sell or Trade
LONGABERGER Bread Basket, emerald vine liner, three tea-size protectors, two wood dividers. Will sell or trade for a 1997 Horizons of Hope basket (cancer). Call Terry Ewell at (757) 331-1402.

For Sale
LONGABERGER 1996 Mother’s Day Vanity Basket with rose pink accent weaving, stackable protector set and floral stand up liner. Call Terry Ewell at (757) 331-1402.

Wanted
Researching Guilford, VA. Would like to copy or buy old photos, letters, papers. Interested in your memories and stories about any families from Guilford prior to the 1960’s. Am also interested in any letters (personal correspondence) or papers written by people living on the Eastern Shore prior to 1960’s. Contact Terry Ewell, P.O. Box 12, Wallops Island, VA 23337.

Policy for NASA Civil Service Travelers

Current US law prohibits government employees from using government vehicles for travel between their homes and place of employment. This prohibition includes taking government vehicles home prior to the start of travel, or keeping a vehicle at home the evening of completion of travel.

If a NASA civil service traveler has a requirement for overnight travel, they have one of the following options that must be indicated on the travel orders:

1. Use a government vehicle if the destination is within a 200-mile radius of Greenbelt or Wallops. (Note: if the traveler returns home each night while attending a conference or meeting, the vehicle must be returned to Greenbelt or to Wallops prior to going home and picked up the next morning).
2. Use your own vehicle (POV).
3. Use a rental vehicle. Go through American Express Travel Services; GTR allowance for a rental car applies.
4. At Wallops, make arrangements through American Express Travel Services, x1561. Rental vehicles are available at Midway Chevrolet, in Pocomoke, MD., telephone (410) 957-3472, and various rental companies in Salisbury, MD.

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